

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

714

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 , 2025

RE: H.B. No. 1323
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Water & Land, to which was referred H.B. No. 1323, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE TRANSFER OF NON-
AGRICULTURAL PARK LANDS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require the Department of Agriculture, upon approval of the Board of Agriculture, rather than mutual agreement and approval of the Board of Agriculture and Board of Land and Natural Resources, to accept the transfer of and manage certain qualifying non-agricultural park lands.

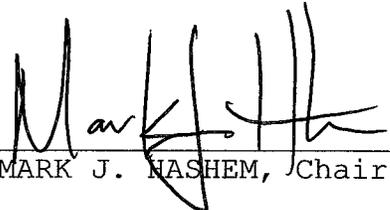
Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii; Boteilho Hawaii Enterprises Inc.; Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association; Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council; Larry Jefts Farms, LLC; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; SC Ranch Company, Inc.; Nobriga Ranch; Hawaii Forest Industry Association; Kealia Ranch; Kapāpala Ranch; and numerous individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Agriculture.



Your Committee finds that Act 90, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003 (Act 90), required the Department of Land and Natural Resources to transfer certain non-agricultural park lands from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture. However, the transfer of these lands has been stalled for more than two decades, resulting in uncertainty for the farmers and ranchers with long-term land leases for these lands. Your Committee further finds that Act 139, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, established a working group to address the delay in the transfer of lands required by Act 90. A key finding of the working group was that lands under the Department of Land and Natural Resources that are used for the primary and substantial management objective of agricultural production should be transferred to the Department of Agriculture. This measure is intended to facilitate the transfer of these lands to the Department of Agriculture to ensure lands primarily used for farming and ranching are managed by the appropriate agency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water & Land that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1323, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water & Land,


MARK J. NASHEM, Chair



